

REMARKS

Examiner has found Claims 18 and 19 to "be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." In response, Applicant has amended dependent Claim 19 to incorporate the limitations of parent Independent Claim 1, and previous intervening dependent Claim 17. Additionally in response, Applicant has amended Independent Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of previous dependent Claim 18, and intervening Claim 17. Further, Applicant has amended dependent Claims 3-7 and 11, previously dependent from Claim 2, to depend from amended Claim 1, and intervening Claims 10 and 12-14 for proper reference thereto.

Thus, Applicant respectfully believes that remaining Independent Claims 1 and 19, as amended, are now in condition for allowance. Additionally, because remaining Claims 3-7 and 10-14 depend from Independent Claim 1, which now incorporates Examiner's allowable subject matter of previous dependent Claim 18 (and intervening Claim 17), Applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 3-7 and 10-14 are also in condition for allowance.

Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-17, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Hood* (US 6,076,193), Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, 14, 15, 17, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

as being anticipated by *Blair* (US 3,392,733), and Claims 5 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hood* ('193). In order to proceed to patent allowance with respect to those claims found by Examiner to contain allowable subject matter, as referenced hereinabove, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 3-7, 10-14, and 19, and has cancelled Claims 2, 8-9, 15-18, and 20-21, without prejudice. Applicant respectfully asserts that, in view of Applicant's amendment to Independent Claim 1, Examiner's rejection of Claims 3-7 and 10-14 has been rendered moot. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue prosecution of all cancelled subject matter in a continuation application to be filed during the pendency of the present application.

CONCLUSION

The above-made amendments are to form only and thus, no new matter was added. Applicant respectfully believes that the above-made amendments now place the remaining Claims in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further questions and/or comments, Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's undersigned Attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted, this 14th day of October, 2005.



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